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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
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KHAN, USMAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/648,445

Applicant(s)

BEAN ET AL.

Examiner

Usman Khan

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 August 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on 12/06/2007 with respect to claims 1 - 28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The examiner is again using the Lee et al. (US patent No. 2003/0193593) reference as the primary reference [Note: in the previous Non-Final office action the examiner did not rely on Lee et al. (US patent No. 2003/0193593)] since the examiner believes that the reference of Lee et al. (US patent No. 2003/0193593) is still valid for the amended claims. This is because the examiner believes that Lee et al. (US patent No. 2003/0193593) teaches different circuitry for the two sets of pixels (figure 2 and paragraph 0015 circuits 23 and 26 reading the sub-window image; figure 3 and paragraph 0016 circuits 34 and 36 reading the sub-window image whereas imager 12 can be read as a whole also using address/shift registers in figures 2 - 3) and Lee et al. uses a CMOS imager and a CMOS imager is inherently capable of reading a single pixel (Lee et al. uses a CMOS imager and it is inherent that CMOS imagers have a property of being able to reading any single pixel separately; title and figures 2 - 5 "X-Y ADDRESSABLE IMAGER").

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 – 2, 13, 24, 25, and 27 – 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (US patent No. 2003/0193593).

Regarding **claim 1**, Lee et al. discloses a method of selectively reading less than all information available at an output of an image sensor for which member-pixels of a subset of an entire set of pixels are individually addressable (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016), the method comprising: sampling information, at the output of the image sensor, representing targeted member-pixel of the subset without having to read information representing the entire set of pixels (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*); and selectively reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing another one or more but fewer than all member pixels of the entire set based upon the sampling information without having to read information representing all pixels on the image sensor (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*), all pixels on the image sensor, wherein each pixel can be individually read, independently of other pixels (Lee et al. uses a CMOS imager and it is inherent that CMOS imagers have a property of being able to reading any single pixel separately; title and figures 2 – 5 “X-Y ADDRESSABLE IMAGER”); and

accessing a first set of sampling photo sensing pixels of the image sensor and accessing a second set of non-sampling pixels of the image sensor, wherein the first and the second set of pixels have different physical circuitry addressing and control line going to them, respectively (figure 2 and paragraph 0015 circuits 23 and 26 reading the

sub-window image; figure 3 and paragraph 0016 circuits 34 and 36 reading the sub-window image whereas imager 12 can be read as a whole also using address/shift registers in figures 2 - 3).

Regarding **claim 2**, Lee et al. discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising: reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing member-pixels of the entire set that are located within a predetermined area adjacent to or surrounding the targeted member-pixel of the subset (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*).

Regarding **claim 13**, Lee et al. discloses a method of selectively reading data available at an output of an image sensor, the method comprising: reading less than all data available at an output of an image sensor for which selected ones but not all of the entire set of pixels are individually addressable (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*), wherein each pixel can be individually read, independently of other pixels (Lee et al. uses a CMOS imager and it is inherent that CMOS imagers have a property of being able to reading any single pixel separately; title and figures 2 - 5 "X-Y ADDRESSABLE IMAGER"); and

accessing a first set of sampling photo-sensing pixels of the image sensor and accessing a second set of non-sampling pixels of the image sensor, wherein the first and the second set of pixels have different physical circuitry addressing and control lines going to them, respectively (figure 2 and paragraph 0015 circuits 23 and 26

reading the sub-window image; figure 3 and paragraph 0016 circuits 34 and 36 reading the sub-window image whereas imager 12 can be read as a whole also using address/shift registers in figures 2 - 3).

Regarding **claim 24**, Lee et al. discloses a digital camera (it is inherent this kind of CMOS imagers are used in cameras and it is inherent that the method for correcting pixels can be implemented in the camera for reduction of size and ease of use) comprising: a pixel-differentiated image sensor for which member-pixels of a subset of the entire set of pixels are individually addressable (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*), the image sensor being controllable to read less than all of the pixels without having to read all of the pixels (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*); and a processor operable to obtain sampling information from a targeted member-pixel of the subset without having to read information from the entire set of pixels (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*); and selectively obtain information from another one or more but fewer than all member pixels of the entire set based upon the sampling information without having to read all of the pixels on the image sensor (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*), wherein each pixel can be individually read, independently of other pixels (Lee et al. uses a CMOS imager and it is inherent that CMOS imagers have a property of being able to reading any single pixel separately; title and figures 2 - 5 "X-Y ADDRESSABLE IMAGER");

a first set of sampling photo-sensing pixels of the Image sensor; and a second set of non-sampling pixels of the image sensor; wherein the first and the second set of pixels

have different physical circuitry addressing and, control lines. going to them, respectively (figure 2 and paragraph 0015 circuits 23 and 26 reading the sub-window image; figure 3 and paragraph 0016 circuits 34 and 36 reading the sub-window image. whereas imager 12 can be read as a whole also using address/shift registers in figures 2 - 3).

Regarding **claim 25**, Lee et al. discloses the digital camera of claim 24, wherein the processor is operable to selectively obtain information from member-pixels of the entire set that are located within a predetermined area adjacent to or surrounding the targeted member-pixel of the subset (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*).

Regarding **claim 27**, Lee et al. discloses a digital camera (it is inherent this kind of CMOS imagers are used in cameras and it is inherent that the method for correcting pixels can be implemented in the camera for reduction of size and ease of use) comprising: a pixel-differentiated image sensor for which selected ones of the entire set of pixels are individually addressable (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*), the image sensor being organized into a matrix of partitions (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*), each partition including a member-pixel of the subset referred to as a sampling pixel (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*); and a processor operable to obtain sampling data from a sampling pixel without having to obtain information from the other pixels in the corresponding partition (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*), and selectively obtain data from at least the entire corresponding partition but fewer

than all of the partitions depending upon the sampled-data without having to obtain information from all of the pixels on the image sensor (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*), wherein each pixel can be individually read, independently of other pixels (Lee et al. uses a CMOS imager and it is inherent that CMOS imagers have a property of being able to reading any single pixel separately; title and figures 2 – 5 “X-Y ADDRESSABLE IMAGER”); and

access a first set of sampling photo-sensing pixels of tile image sensor and access a second set of non-sampling pixels of the image sensor, wherein the first; and the second set of pixels have different physical circuitry addressing and control lines going to them, respectively (figure 2 and paragraph 0015 circuits 23 and 26 reading the sub-window image; figure 3 and paragraph 0016 circuits 34 and 36 reading the sub-window image whereas imager 12 can be read as a whole also using address/shift registers in figures 2 - 3).

Regarding **claim 28**, Lee et al. discloses the digital camera of claim 27, wherein the processor is operable to selectively obtain data from partitions located within a predetermined area adjacent to or surrounding the sampling pixel (figures 1 - 3 and Paragraph 0016 *et seq.*).

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 – 9, 14 – 20, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US patent No. 2003/0193593) in view of Kinjo et al. (US patent No. 6,631,208).

Regarding **claims 3**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 2, Lee et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. However, Lee et al. fails to disclose organizing the entire set of pixels into partitions, each partition having multiple pixels; mapping one or more of the partitions one or more of the member-pixels of the subset, respectively; reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing all member-pixels of the subset so as to generate a plurality of samples; handling the samples in a manner that preserves a relationship between each sample and corresponding member-pixel of the subset; and reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing one or more of the partitions mapped to the member-pixels of the subset but not all of the partitions based upon the plurality of samples. Kinjo et al., on the other hand teaches organizing the entire set of pixels into partitions, each partition having multiple pixels; mapping one or more of the partitions one or more of the member-pixels of the subset, respectively; reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing all member-pixels of the subset so as to generate a plurality of samples; handling the samples in a manner that preserves a relationship between each sample and corresponding member-pixel of the subset; and reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing one or more of the partitions mapped to

the member-pixels of the subset but not all of the partitions based upon the plurality of samples.

More specifically, Kinjo et al. teaches organizing the entire set of pixels into partitions, each partition having multiple pixels (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26); mapping one or more of the partitions one or more of the member-pixels of the subset, respectively (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26); reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing all member-pixels of the subset so as to generate a plurality of samples (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26); handling the samples in a manner that preserves a relationship between each sample and corresponding member-pixel of the subset (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26); and reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing one or more of the partitions mapped to the member-pixels of the subset but not all of the partitions based upon the plurality of samples (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate the teachings of Kinjo et al. with the teachings of Lee et al. because in column 3, lines 31 - 50 Kinjo et al. teaches that the use of the invention provides a processing method which is capable of producing a finished print with a natural feel from a corrected image.

Regarding **claims 4**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1, Lee et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. However, Lee et al. fails to disclose determining if the sampling information exceeds a reference value; and reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing the one or more but fewer than all member-pixels of the entire set if the sampling information exceeds the reference value. Kinjo et al., on the other hand teaches determining if the sampling information exceeds a reference value; and reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing the one or more but fewer than all member-pixels of the entire set if the sampling information exceeds the reference value.

More specifically, Kinjo et al. teaches determining if the sampling information exceeds a reference value; and reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing the one or more but fewer than all member-pixels of the entire set if the sampling information exceeds the reference value (column 3, line 32 - column 4 line 14 and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate the teachings of Kinjo et al. with the teachings of Lee et al. because in column 3, lines 31 - 50 Kinjo et al. teaches that the use of the invention provides a processing method which is capable of producing a finished print with a natural feel from a corrected image.

Regarding **claims 5**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 4, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally,

Kinjo et al. teaches wherein the reference value represents one of a user-determined threshold or a saturation threshold for the targeted member-pixel of the subset (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19).

Regarding **claims 6**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 4, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing all member-pixels of the subset so as to generate a plurality of samples (column 3 lines 51 *et seq.*), each member-pixel of the subset having a corresponding reference value, respectively (column 3 lines 51 *et seq.*); applying the determining step to each of the samples (column 3 lines 51 *et seq.*); and reading information, at the output of the image sensor, representing the one or more but fewer than all member-pixels of the entire set located within a predetermined area adjacent to or surrounding member-pixels for which the corresponding sample exceeds the respective reference value (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19).

Regarding **claims 7**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 4, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches the sampling information is the current sampling information (column 3 lines 51 *et seq.*) and the reference value is a first reference value (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19); and the method further comprises: taking the difference between the current sampling information and the first reference value (column 3 lines

51 *et seq.*); and reading, at the output of the image sensor, representing the one or more but fewer than all member-pixels of the entire set if the difference exceeds a second reference value (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19).

Regarding **claims 8**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 7, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches wherein the first reference value is the previous sampling information, respectively (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19).

Regarding **claims 9**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 7, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches setting the first reference value to be equal to the current sampling information if the difference exceeds the second reference value (column 17, lines 37 *et seq.*).

Regarding **claim 14**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 13, Lee et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. However, Lee et al. fails to disclose organizing the image sensor into a matrix of partitions, each partition including a member-pixel of the subset referred to as a sampling pixel; selectively reading data from at least the entire corresponding partition but fewer than all of the partitions depending upon the sampled-data without having to read all of the pixels on the image sensor. Kinjo et al., on the other hand teaches organizing the image sensor into a matrix

of partitions, each partition including a member-pixel of the subset referred to as a sampling pixel; sampling data at the output of the image sensor, representing a sampling pixel without having to read information representing the other pixels in the corresponding partition; and selectively reading data at the output of the image sensor, representing at least the entire corresponding partition but fewer than all of the partitions depending upon the sampled-data without having to read all of the pixels on the image sensor.

More specifically, Kinjo et al. teaches organizing the image sensor into a matrix of partitions (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26), each partition including a member-pixel of the subset referred to as a sampling pixel (it is inherent that each of these partitions will include a sampling pixel); sampling data at the output of the image sensor, representing a sampling pixel without having to read information representing the other pixels in the corresponding partition (column 13, lines 18 *et seq.*); selectively reading data at the output of the image sensor, representing at least the entire corresponding partition but fewer than all of the partitions depending upon the sampled-data without having to read all of the pixels on the image sensor (column 4, lines 2 *et seq.*).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate the teachings of Kinjo et al. with the teachings of Lee et al. because in column 3, lines 31 - 50 Kinjo et al. teaches that the use of the invention provides a processing method which is capable of producing a finished print with a natural feel from a corrected image.

Regarding **claims 15**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 14, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches reading data at the output of the image sensor, representing partitions located within a predetermined area adjacent to or surrounding the sampling pixel (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.*).

Regarding **claims 16**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 14, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches determining if the sampled-data exceeds a reference value; and reading data at the output of the image sensor, representing the one or more but fewer than all member-pixels of the entire set if the sampled-data exceeds the reference value (column 3, line 32 - column 4 line 14 and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26).

Regarding **claims 17**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 16, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches wherein the reference value represents a saturation threshold for the targeted member-pixel of the subset (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19).

Regarding **claims 18**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 16, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally,

Kinjo et al. teaches wherein: the sampled data is the currently sampled data (column 3 lines 51 *et seq.*) and the reference value is a first reference value (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19); and the method further comprises taking the difference between the currently sampled data and the first reference value (column 3 lines 51 *et seq.*), and reading from the one or more but fewer than all member-pixels of the entire set if the difference exceeds a second reference value (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19).

Regarding **claims 19**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 18, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches wherein the first reference value is the previously sampled data, respectively (column 17, line 37 – column 18, line 19).

Regarding **claims 20**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 18, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Kinjo et al. teaches setting the first reference value to be equal to the currently sampled data if the difference exceeds the second reference value (column 17, lines 37 *et seq.*).

Regarding **claim 26**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 25, Lee et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. However, Lee et al. fails to disclose wherein the entire set of pixels is further organized into partitions, each partition having multiple pixels; one or more of the partitions being mapped one or more of the member-pixels of the subset, respectively; the processor is operable to read information from all

member-pixels of the subset so as to generate a plurality of samples; the processor further being operable to handle the samples in a manner that preserves a relationship between each sample and corresponding member-pixel of the subset, and read information from one or more of the partitions mapped to the member-pixels of the subset but not all of the partitions based upon the plurality of samples. Kinjo et al., on the other hand teaches wherein the entire set of pixels is further organized into partitions, each partition having multiple pixels; one or more of the partitions being mapped one or more of the member-pixels of the subset, respectively; the processor is operable to read information from all member-pixels of the subset so as to generate a plurality of samples; the processor further being operable to handle the samples in a manner that preserves a relationship between each sample and corresponding member-pixel of the subset, and read information from one or more of the partitions mapped to the member-pixels of the subset but not all of the partitions based upon the plurality of samples.

More specifically, Kinjo et al. teaches wherein the entire set of pixels is further organized into partitions, each partition having multiple pixels (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26); one or more of the partitions being mapped one or more of the member-pixels of the subset, respectively (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26); the processor is operable to read information from all member-pixels of the subset so as to generate a plurality of samples (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26; also it is inherent that this process is

controlled by a processor); the processor further being operable to handle the samples in a manner that preserves a relationship between each sample and corresponding member-pixel of the subset (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26), and read information from one or more of the partitions mapped to the member-pixels of the subset but not all of the partitions based upon the plurality of samples (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* and figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate the teachings of Kinjo et al. with the teachings of Lee et al. because in column 3, lines 31 - 50 Kinjo et al. teaches that the use of the invention provides a processing method which is capable of producing a finished print with a natural feel from a corrected image.

Claims 10 -11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US patent No. 2003/0193593) in further view of Horie et al. (US patent No. 6,480,624).

Regarding **claim 10**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 1, Lee et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. However, Lee et al. fails to disclose that the method further comprises: measuring an elapsed time; reading information at the output of the image sensor representing all member-pixels of the subset if the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined amount. Horie et al., on the other hand teaches that method comprises: measuring an elapsed time; reading information at the output of

the image sensor representing all member-pixels of the subset if the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined amount.

More specifically, Horie et al. teaches that method comprises: measuring an elapsed time (column 8, lines 58 *et seq.*); reading information at the output of the image sensor representing all member-pixels of the subset if the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined amount (column 8, lines 58 *et seq.*).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate the teachings of Horie et al. with the teachings of Lee et al. because in column 8, lines 58 *et seq.* Horie et al. teaches that the use of the time controlled image pickup will result exposure control, this will in turn result in a improved image.

Regarding **claim 11**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 10, Lee et al. in further view of Horie et al. teach all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Horie et al. teaches multiple instances of the elapsed time at the output of the image sensor representing all member-pixel of the subset can be measured in the next cycle of the image capture (column 8, lines 58 *et seq.*).

Claims 21 - 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US patent No. 2003/0193593) in view of Kinjo et al. (US patent No. 6,631,208) in further view of Horie et al. (US patent No. 6,480,624).

Regarding **claim 21**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 14, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. teaches all of the limitations of the parent claims. However, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. fails to disclose that the method further comprises: measuring an elapsed time; reading information at the output of the image sensor representing all member-pixels of the subset if the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined amount. Horie et al., on the other hand teaches that method comprises: measuring an elapsed time; reading information at the output of the image sensor representing all member-pixels of the subset if the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined amount.

More specifically, Horie et al. teaches that method comprises: measuring an elapsed time (column 8, lines 58 *et seq.*); reading information at the output of the image sensor representing all member-pixels of the subset if the elapsed time exceeds a predetermined amount (column 8, lines 58 *et seq.*).

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to incorporate the teachings of Horie et al. with the teachings of Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. because in column 8, lines 58 *et seq.* Horie et al. teaches that the use of the time controlled image pickup will result exposure control, this will in turn result in a improved image.

Regarding **claim 22**, as mentioned above in the discussion of claim 21, Lee et al. in view of Kinjo et al. in further view of Horie et al. teach all of the limitations of the parent claims. Additionally, Horie et al. teaches multiple instances of the elapsed time

at the output of the image sensor representing all member-pixel of the subset can be measured in the next cycle of the image capture (column 8, lines 58 *et seq.*).

Claim 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinjo et al. (US patent No. 6,631,208) in further view of Examiners Official Notice.

Regarding **claim 12**, Kinjo et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the image sensor is one of a CCD image sensor for which the subset is smaller than the entire set (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26). However, Kinjo et al. fails to disclose that a CMOS image sensor for which the subset is the same as the entire set (the examiner takes official notice that it is old and well known in the art to get high resolution output from a CMOS imager sensor the subset is the same size as the entire set i.e. the whole CMOS image sensor is read out).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to get high-resolution output from a CMOS imager sensor the entire CMOS image sensor is read.

Claims 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinjo et al. (US patent No. 6,631,208) in view of Kinjo et al. (US patent No. 6,631,208) in further view of Examiners Official Notice.

Regarding **claim 23**, Kinjo et al. in view of Kinjo et al. discloses the method of claim 14, wherein the image sensor is one of a CCD image sensor for which the subset

is smaller than the entire set (column 3, lines 32 *et seq.* figures 15A – 15F and 20A – 20B, column 18 lines 20 – 26). However, Kinjo et al. in view of Kinjo et al. fails to disclose that a CMOS image sensor for which the subset is the same as the entire set (the examiner takes official notice that it is old and well known in the art to get high resolution output from a CMOS imager sensor the subset is the same size as the entire set i.e. the whole CMOS image sensor is read out).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to get high-resolution output from a CMOS imager sensor the entire CMOS image sensor is read.

### ***Conclusion***


Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usman Khan whose telephone number is (571) 270-1131. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thru 6:45-4:15; Fri 6:45-3:15 or Alt. Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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